(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AUTHENTICATION AND TRACKING SYSTEM
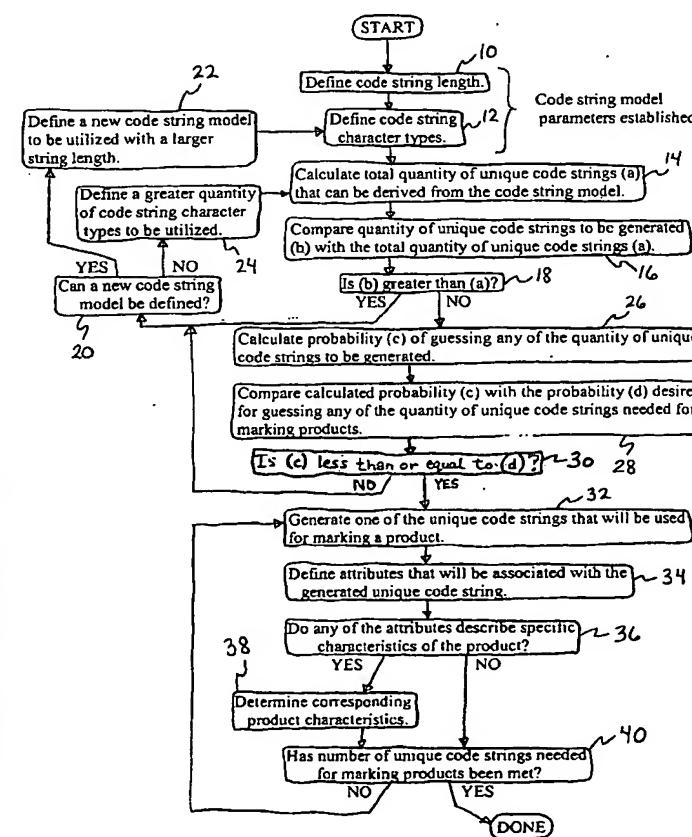
(57) Abstract: A subset of unique codes (64) is generated (32) from a set of codes. The subset of codes are stored (50) in a database on a secure server (68) and each of the codes (64) is marked on a corresponding instantiation (58) of the product. The marked instantiations (58) are distributed (62). During their distribution (62), the marked instantiations are verified (60) for authenticity and for routing. This verification is performed by reading or scanning (66) the codes (64) on the instantiations (58), and transmitting that information to the secure server (68) for comparison against the codes (64) and other information located in the database contained of the secure server (68).

TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US (patent), UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) **Date of publication of the international search report:**
7 July 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.